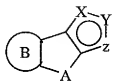
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for treating diseases caused by and/or associated with an altered protein kinase activity which comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)

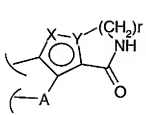


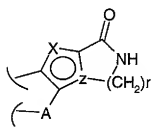
(I)

wherein

X, Y and **Z**, being part of an aromatic ring are selected, each independently, from the group consisting of N, NR_1, S, O and CR_1;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrido, lower alkyl, perfluorinated lower alkyl, heterocyclyl, CN, CO_2R', $COCF_3$, COR', CONR'R", NR'R", C(=NR')NR'R", $CONHNH_2$, CONHOR', NHCOR', CH_2NH_2, and CH_2NHCOR'; or R_1 may form, when part of Z or Y, a 5 to 7 membered ring together with the remaining of Y or Z, as per the formulae below





R' and **R"** are selected, each independently, from the group consisting of hydrido, hydroxy, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heterocyclyl or heterocyclyl-alkyl;

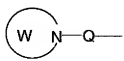
B is an aromatic 5 or 6 membered ring having from 0 to 3 heteroatoms selected from S, O and N;

A is selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)m-$, $-(CH_2)_n-CH=CH-(CH_2)_n-$ and $-(CR_zR_y)_p-$;

$\mathbf{R_z}$ and $\mathbf{R_y}$ are selected, each independently, from hydrido or lower alkyl; each of the X,Y,Z and B rings being optionally further substituted by one or more **-L-R_2** groups, wherein

L represents, each independently, a single bond, an alkylidene group or a divalent group selected from NH, NHCO, CONH, NHCONH, SO_2NH and $NHSO_2$;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is, each independently, hydrido, alkyl, 5 to 12 membered mono- or bi-cyclic ring having from 0 to 3 heteroatoms selected from S, O and N, optionally substituted with one or more $-(CH_2)_q-R_3$ groups; or R_2 is a group of formula



W is a 3 to 7 membered ring having one N heteroatom directly linked to Q and from 0 to 2 additional heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of S, SO, SO_2, O, N and NR', wherein R' is as above defined;

Q is a divalent group selected from CO, SO_2 and $(CH_2)_n$;

$\mathbf{R_3}$ is selected, each independently, from the group consisting of alkyl halogen, CF_3, OCF_3, NO_2, CN, C(=NR')NR'R", OR', SR', OCOR', OCONR'R", $COCF_3$, COR', CO_2R', CONR'R", SO_2R', $SO_2NR'R"$, NR'R", NR'COR', NR'COOR', NR'CONR'R", $NR'SO_2R'$, $NR'SO_2NR'R"$, wherein R' and R" are as above defined;

m is an integer from 1 to 4;

n is, each independently, 0, 1, or 2;

p is 1 or 2;

q is, each independently, 0 or an integer from 1 to 3;

r is an integer from 1 to 3;

or isomers, tautomers, carriers, prodrugs, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the disease caused by and/or associated with an altered protein kinase activity is a cell proliferative disorder selected from the group consisting of cancer, Alzheimer's disease, viral infections, auto-immune diseases and neurodegenerative disorders.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the cancer is selected from carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, hematopoietic tumors of lymphoid or myeloid lineage, tumors of mesenchymal origin, tumors of the central and peripheral nervous system, melanoma, seminoma, teratocarcinoma, osteosarcoma, xeroderma pigmentosum, keratoxanthoma, thyroid follicular cancer and Kaposi's sarcoma.

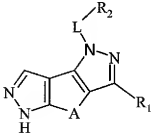
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the cell proliferative disorder is selected from benign prostate hyperplasia, familial adenomatosis, polyposis, neuro-fibromatosis, psoriasis, vascular smooth cell proliferation associated with atherosclerosis, pulmonary fibrosis, arthritis glomerulonephritis and post-surgical stenosis and restenosis.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 which provides tumor angiogenesis and metastasis inhibition.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising subjecting the mammal in need thereof to a radiation therapy or chemotherapy regimen in combination with at least one cytostatic or cytotoxic agent.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal in need thereof is a human.

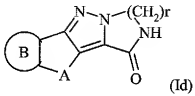
8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 which comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (Ic)



(Ic)

wherein R_1, L and R_2 are, each independently, as defined in claim 1, and A is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, -CH=CH- and $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_2-$.

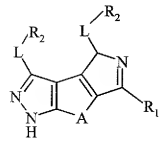
9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 which comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (Id)



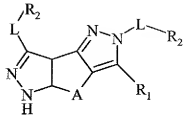
(Id)

wherein r and B are as defined in claim 1, A is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2--H_2-$, -H.=CH- and $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_2-$, and the B ring being optionally further substituted as defined in claim 1.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 which comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (Ie) or (If)



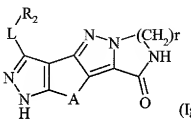
(Ie)



(If)

wherein L and R_2 are, each independently and the same or different in each occasion, as defined in claim 1; A is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-CH_2-$, -CH=CH- and $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_2-$; and R_1 is a group selected from NR'R", CN, CO_2R', COR', CONR'R", CONHOR', $CONHNH_2$ and C(=NOH)NR'R", wherein R' and R" are, the same or different, hydrido or lower alkyl.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 which comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (Ig)

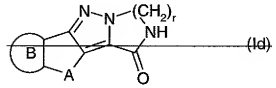


(Ig)

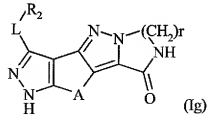
wherein L, R_2 and r are as defined in claim 1 and A is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-CH_2-$, -CH=CH- and $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_2-$.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting protein kinase activity which comprises contacting the said kinase with an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by formula ~~(Id)~~ (Ig)



~~(Id)~~



(Ig)

wherein

~~B is 1H-pyrazole;~~

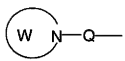
A is ~~$-CH_2-$~~, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, -CH=CH- or $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_2-$;

r is integer from [[1]] 2 to 3;

~~B ring being optionally further substituted by one or more L-R_2 groups, wherein~~

L represents[[,]] ~~each independently, a single bond, an alkylidene group or a divalent group selected from~~ H or NH[[,]] ~~NHCO, CONH, NHCONH, SO_2NH and $NHSO_2$~~;

R_2 is, each independently, hydrogen, alkyl, 5 to 12 membered mono- or bi-cyclic ring having from 0 to 3 heteroatoms selected from S, O and N, optionally substituted with one or more $-(CH_2)_q-R_3$ groups; or R_2 is a group of formula



W is a 3 to 7 membered ring having one N heteroatom directly linked to Q and from 0 to 2 additional heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of S, SO, SO_2, O, N and NR'; with the proviso that when L is H, R_2 is not present;

Q is a divalent group selected from CO, SO_2 and $(CH_2)_n$, wherein n is 0, 1, or 2;

q is, each independently, 0 or an integer from 1 to 3;

R_3 is selected, each independently, from the group consisting of alky, halogen, CF_3, OCF_3, NO_2, CN, C(=NR')NR'R", OR', SR', OCOR', OCONR'R", $COCF_3$, COR', CO_2R', CONR'R", SO_2R', $SO_2NR'R"$, NR'R", NR'COR', NR'COOR', NR'CONR'R", $NR'SO_2R'$, $NR'SO_2NR'R"$;

R' and R" are selected, each independently, from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heterocyclyl or heterocyclyl-alkyl;

or isomers, tautomers, carriers, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

14.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula ~~(Id)~~ (Ig) as defined in claim 13, optionally in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, selected from the group consisting of:

7,8,9,10-tetrahydro[1,4]diazepino[1,2-b]pyrazolo[3,4-g]indazol-6(3H)-one;

8,9-dihydro-3H-pyrazino[1,2-b]pyrazolo[3,- 4-g]indazol-6(7H)-one;

1-anilino-8,9-dihydro-3H-pyrazino[1,2-b]pyrazolo[3,4-g]indazol-6(7H)-one;

4,5,7,8,9,10-hexahydro[1,4]diazepino[1,2-b]pyrazolo[3-,4-g]indazol-6(3H)-one;

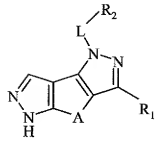
5,5-dimethyl-4,5,7,8,9,10-hexahydro[1,4]diazepino[1,2-b]pyrazolo[3,4-g]indazol-6(3H)-one;

5,5-dimethyl-4,5,8,9-tetrahydro-3H-pyrazino[1,2-b]pyrazolo[3,4-g]indazol-6(7H)-one;

4,5,8,9-tetrahydro-3H-pyrazino[1,2-b]pyrazolo[3,4-g]indazol-6(7H)-one;

1-anilino-4,5,8,9-tetrahydro-3H-pyrazino[1,2-b]pyrazolo[3,4-g]indazol-6(7H)-one.

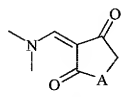
23. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound of formula (Ic) as defined in claim 16



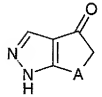
(Ic)

wherein L and R_2 are as defined in claim 16, R_1 is a group -COOEt or $-CONH_2$, and A is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, -CH=CH- and $-CH_2-C(CH3)2-$, which process comprises:

a) reacting the compound (10) with hydrazine dihydrochloride, so as to obtain the compound (11)



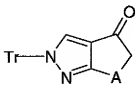
(10)



(11)

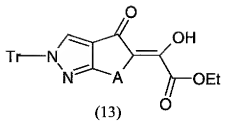
wherein A is as above defined, other than –CH=CH-;

b) reacting the compound (11) with trityl chloride, so as to obtain the compound (12)



(12)

wherein Tr stands for trityl, and condensing it with oxalyl chloride so as to obtain the compound (13)



(13)

c) reacting the compound (13) with a substituted hydrazine (8)

(8)

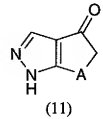
wherein L and R_2 are as defined in claim 16; so as to obtain a compound of formula (Ic) wherein R_1 is a group -COOEt and A is as above defined except –CH=CH-; and, optionally

d) reacting this latter with ammonium hydroxide so as to obtain the corresponding derivative of formula (Ic) wherein R_1 is -$CONH_2$; and, optionally

e) reacting the compound of formula (Ic) wherein A is -CH_2-CH_2-, as obtained in steps c) or d), with a suitable oxidizing agent so as to obtain the corresponding derivative of formula (Ic) wherein A is –CH=CH-.

24. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 23 wherein, in step e), the oxidizing agent is 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone.

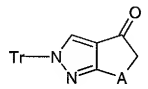
25. (Withdrawn) The compound of formula (11)



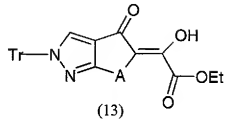
(11)

wherein A is selected from $-CH_2-$ or $-CH_2-CH_2-$.

26. (Withdrawn) The compounds of formula (12) and (13)



(12)



(13)

wherein Tr is trityl and A is selected from $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$ and $-CH_2-C(CH_3)_2-$.

27. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of formula ~~(Id)~~ (Ig) as defined in claim 13 and, at least, one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, carrier or diluent.

28. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 27 further comprising one or more chemotherapeutic agents, as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in anticancer therapy.

29. (Withdrawn) A product or kit comprising a compound of claim 13 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof as defined in claim 27, and one or more chemotherapeutic agents, as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in anticancer therapy.

30. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in claim 13, for use as a medicament.

31. (Withdrawn) Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in claim 13, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating diseases caused by and/or associated with an altered protein kinase activity.

32. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 31 for treating tumors.